

DRAFT APPENDIX IV  
August 21, 2001 Revision  
NOAA Small Boat Visual Identification and Numbering

**SECTION A. INTRODUCTION.**

.01 NOAA operates numerous boats in the near shore environment where these vessels may be visible to the public. A uniform and easily identifiable color and marking scheme will promote public recognition of NOAA activities in the coastal environment.

.02 A uniform numbering scheme is required by United States Code and necessary to maintain an accurate centralized inventory of NOAA vessels.

**SECTION B. RESPONSIBILITY.**

.01 NOAA activities that operate boats are responsible for:

a. Complying as closely as practicable to the visual identification guidelines listed in Section C of this Appendix.

b. Registering any new craft or existing craft not already registered with the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator for the purpose of assigning a NOAA hull identification number.

.02 OMAO shall be responsible for:

a. Maintaining an inventory of small boats.

b. Issuing hull identification numbers.

c. Granting exemptions to vessels where compliance with the visual identification standards are not practicable.

**SECTION C. VISUAL IDENTIFICATION.**

.01 NOAA Logo.

a. Broadside Position:

1. On vessels which have a cabin, deck house, or a steering console, NOAA Emblems shall be placed on both the port and starboard side of the cabin, deck house, or console at a location which is least obstructed from a clear broadside view. Emblems shall be sized to be as large as possible for the available surface area.

2. On vessels without a cabin, deck house, or steering console, NOAA Emblems shall be placed on the forward portion of both the port and starboard bow.

b. Transom Position.

1. Vessels with a full and unobscured transom shall display the NOAA emblem centered on the transom. The emblem shall be sized to be as large as possible for the available surface area and must account for area required for the hull identification number placement below the emblem.

2. Catamarans, canoes, and other vessels with either insufficient transom area to adequately display the NOAA Emblem in a centered position, or vessels with a transom obscured by a centerline notch, bracket, ramp or other device, shall display the NOAA logo on the port side of the transom outboard of the hull identification number. Emblems placed on the transom in this position shall be sized as closely as possible to match the font size of the vessel hull identification number.

c. Additional Optional Position. At the discretion of the Senior Field Manager an additional NOAA emblem may be displayed on the port and starboard bow of any class motorboat or SRV when the size of the bow provides adequate surface area and it is determined by a simple majority of Responsible Persons and Boat Operators that the additional NOAA Emblem enhances the vessel marking scheme and does not visually over burden the vessel with NOAA Emblems.

d. NOAA Emblem Reproduction. Senior Field Managers are urged to consult NOAA Visual Communication Standards for guidance on NOAA Emblem reproduction specifications.

e. NOAA Form numbers for NOAA Emblem decal size.

NOAA Form	Size of Decal (Inches)
68-1B	3
68-1C	4 ½
68-1E	6
68-1F	12
68-1G	18
68-1H	24
68-1J	30
68-1K	36
68-1L	42
68-1M	48

f. Ordering Information.

1. To order NOAA emblem forms contact:

National Logistics Support Center  
1510 East Bannister Road, Building 1  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
(816) 926-3990  
(816) 926-7901 (fax)

2. Current and additional information pertaining to ordering forms and forms management can be found at the following internet site:

[http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~mboffice/forms-rev.htm#to\\_order](http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~mboffice/forms-rev.htm#to_order)

.02 Program Specific Marking.

- a. Programs are entitled to develop and use visual identifying emblems. Any program specific emblem shall follow NOAA policy for visual communication. Program emblems shall not appear larger than the largest sized NOAA Emblem on the vessel.
- b. Programs are entitled to display the unique Program name on program vessels. Program name lettering shall follow the guidelines for vessel name and hull identification numbers as closely as practicable.

.03 Vessel Name and Hull Identification Number. Vessel name and hull identification numbers shall be:

- a. block shaped capital letters in Arial-type font;
- b. a color providing contrast with the background hull color, usually black; and
- c. sized as follows:
  - 1. Motorboat Class A - 3 inches;
  - 2. Motorboat Class I - 3 inches;
  - 3. Motorboat Class II - 6 inches;
  - 4. Motorboat Class III - 6 inches;
  - 5. Small Research Vessel - 8 inches.

NOTE: Drawings 1.0 through 4.0 to this Appendix should facilitate visualization of the appropriate marking for different boat configurations and assist in complying with the intent of Section C.01 and C.03 of this Appendix.

.04 Hulls. The hull of vessels shall comply with the following visual guidelines:

a. Fiberglass. Color shall be that of pigment used in the original fiberglass lay up. Programs acquiring new vessels should specify a white hull when available.

b. Wood or Steel. Color shall be white. Exemptions for existing vessels painted colors other than white shall be considered by the NOAA Small Boat Manager on a case-by-case basis.

.05 Structures. The house, or any structure used to house cargo, personnel, or lab space which extends above the main working deck shall be white.

.06 Weight Handling Equipment. Cranes, winches, or other weight handling gear shall be black in color.

.07 Exterior Decks and Ladder Treads. To the extent possible, exterior decks and ladder treads shall be gray. Vessels of fiberglass construction are exempted from this requirement.

.08 Masts and Rigging. Masts and rigging shall be black or buff. The primary vessel operator shall determine which color shall be applied.

.09 Boot Top. Boot topping, if applied, shall be black.

.10 Exemptions.

a. Aluminum Structures. Painting of marine grade aluminum hulls or structures shall be at the discretion of the Senior Field Manager.

b. Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats. Existing rigid hull inflatable boats are exempt from the visual identification requirements of Sections C.01 through C.09 of this Appendix. Although exempt from most of these requirements, existing rigid hull inflatable boats should strive to comply with these Sections where practicable. New rigid hull inflatable boats shall comply with these standards where practicable and to the extent that it will not place unreasonable demands on Program resources.

c. Established Recognition. Exemptions from the requirements of this order may be granted for existing vessels with well established public recognition and where this recognition is critical to meeting mission success or necessary to prevent harassment by marine authorities or other mariners.

d. Imminent Danger. Exemptions from the requirements of this Order may be granted by the Senior Field Manager, on a temporary basis, for vessels when significant hazard to the vessel or its complement is probable, or perceived, due to unpopular public opinion caused by NOAA regulation or policy. Restoration of the vessel to the requirements of this Order shall be at the earliest possible time after the passage

of the perceived or possible threat.

#### **SECTION D. FLAGS.**

.01 National Ensign. Where practicable, the Flag of the United States of America shall be flown when underway or when a vessel's complement is aboard in port. Flags of the United States for each class of vessel shall be greater or equal to the dimensions given below:

- a. Small Research Vessel - 24 inches by 36 inches;
- b. Class III - 20 inches by 30 inches;
- c. Class II - 16 inches by 24 inches;
- d. Class I - 12 inches by 18 inches; and
- e. Class A - 12 inches by 18 inches, or at the discretion of the Senior Field Manager.

.02 NOAA Service Flag. When practicable, an appropriately sized NOAA Service Flag shall be flown beneath, or outboard of, the National Ensign when underway or when manned in port. The NOAA House Flag shall be smaller than the National Ensign. NOAA Service Flags are sized as follows:

- a. Size 2 - 43 inches by 62 inches;
- b. Size 3 - 30 inches by 42 inches;
- c. Size 4 - 23 inches by 32 inches; and
- d. Size 6 - 8 inches by 12 inches (approximately).

.03 NOAA Service Flag Ordering. To order NOAA Service Flags, contact the Small Boat Coordinator and provide the size and quantity desired, shipping address, and organization code and task number to be charged. Field activities with a high demand for flags may be able to establish direct ordering accounts with National Logistics Supply Consolidated Logistics Supply.

.04 Other Flags. Other flags, such as Official Flags of the individual States of the United States of America, POW/MIA Flags, Flags of NOAA officials, or international courtesy flags, may be flown at the discretion of the Senior Field Manager.

.05 Priority of Display. No flag shall be sized larger or displayed in a higher position of priority than the National Ensign. No flag, except the National Ensign, shall be sized larger or displayed in a

higher position of priority than the NOAA Service Flag.

#### **SECTION E. HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.**

.01 NOAA Hull Identification Numbers shall be issued by the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator. Identification numbers shall be composed of up to 6 digits as follows; one letter and a four or five digit number. The identification numbers shall be constructed as follows:

a. The first digit shall be a letter and assigned as follows:

1. F - Any vessel owned by the National Marine Fisheries Service
2. S - Any vessel owned by the National Ocean Service and primarily engaged in hydrographic survey, charting, or activities related to the test and evaluation of hydrographic survey gear.
3. R - Any vessel owned by Office of Atmospheric Research or National Ocean Service and primarily engaged in research other than hydrographic survey, or charting. Any vessel owned by National Weather Service, or National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service.

b. The following two digits shall be numbers and shall correspond to the over all length of the vessel measured in feet and rounded to the nearest whole foot length. For vessels whose length is 6" over a whole foot increment, the number shall be rounded up to the next whole foot.

c. The next two digits shall be determined by the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator and assigned in a sequential manner. As an example, the existing vessels R/V BAY HYDROGRAPHER (NOS-Survey), R/V GLORIA MICHELLE (NMFS), R/V TATOOSH (NOS-Sanctuaries) could have hull identification numbers of S5501, F7201, and R4201 respectively. A third digit may be utilized in the case when inventory in a specific length category exceeds 99 total vessels.

.02 Senior Field Managers shall submit the following information to the Small Boat Coordinator when requesting a hull identification number:

- a. Owner (Line Office Program);
- b. Vessel name;
- c. Dimensions (length, beam, and draft);
- d. Intended service;

- e. Propulsion plant type and horsepower;
- f. Primary operating area;
- g. Endurance (in days);
- h. Home port; and
- i. Principle Point of Contact.

.03 Hull Identification Number Placement. All NOAA vessels shall display the hull identification number assigned by the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator in the following manner:

a. Bow. The number shall be painted on the forward section of the port and starboard bow. If the vessel name is painted on the port and starboard bow, the number shall appear beneath the name, left justified and of the same size font as the vessel name. The NOAA Emblem, if displayed on the bow, shall be positioned forward of the vessel name and hull identification number.

b. Transom. The hull identification number shall be applied to the transom of all vessels as follows:

1. Full Transom - Centered below the NOAA Emblem, and sized in accordance with the guidance in Section C.03c of this Appendix.

2. Notched, Bracketed, Ramped, or Obscured transoms or transoms with insufficient area to adequately display the NOAA Emblem - On the port side, left justified to the NOAA emblem and sized in accordance with Section C.03c of this Appendix. Where application of Section C.03c is not practical, the NOAA Emblem and hull identification number shall be sized to be as large as possible within the given area.

c. Plaque. The OMAO Small Boat Coordinator shall issue a 2 inch high by 3 inch wide engraved plaque to every Responsible Person for each boat under their purview. The plaque shall be applied to a prominent area of the vessel near the coxswains normal operating position. The plaque shall incorporate suitable adhesive backing for exterior console mounting for vessels without weather enclosures. The plaque will be engraved with the vessel name and hull identification number.

d. Variation. Variations to the display requirements for hull identification numbers shall be considered and either approved or disapproved by the Small Boat Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

## **SECTION F. ATTACHMENTS.**

Drawing 1.0 - Typical Class A and I Motorboat NOAA Visual Identification and Numbering, Starboard Profile and Obscured Transom.

Drawing 2.0 - Typical Class II Motorboat Visual Identification and Numbering, Starboard Profile and Obscured Transom.

Drawing 3.0 - Typical Class III Motorboat Visual Identification and Numbering, Starboard Profile and Full Transom.

Drawing 4.0 - Typical Small Research Vessel Visual Identification and Numbering, Starboard Profile and Full Transom.